

My wife Gayle and I will keep Bill's entire family in our thoughts and prayers.

#### RECOGNIZING GARY BATES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the exemplary citizenship of Gary Bates. This is recognition for a life that has been lived and is continuing to be lived well—the kind of honorable life that too often goes unrecognized.

Gary's life has been defined by fighting. He began life in Henderson, NV fighting to avoid the challenges of a difficult home. He took this fighting spirit into the Marine Corps, where he served honorably until 1966 when he began an impressive career as a professional heavyweight boxer. As a regular name on the Las Vegas strip, he faced off with big names like Ken Norton, Ron Lyle and Gerry Cooney. There is nothing to idealize about many of the choices he made and paths he took in this phase of his life, but what is admirable is how he fought to turn his life around. He learned from the mistakes he made, and turned potential stumbling blocks into effective stepping stones to a productive life.

Recognizing a better way of living, Gary settled down by marrying his wife Carmen and raising two daughters. But Gary did not stop fighting. Finding inspiration in his Catholic faith, he picked up the fight for the less fortunate and endangered. Some of Gary's feats border on the incredible. He once saved the life of a complete stranger, Charles H. Case. While visiting Las Vegas, Charles crashed into an off-ramp rail and his car exploded into flames. Luckily for Charles, Gary witnessed the crash, broke the front left window and freed his pinned body from the enflamed car. Another time, while working in a downtown casino, Gary chased a fleeing thief through an alley into another casino and, as the police reported, decked him with a single punch to the right cheekbone. Gary was never motivated by or sought praise for these actions, a fact that is evidenced by many other low-profile acts of service. He has donated more than 25 gallons of his blood. Additionally, Gary has uniquely compatible blood marrow that he has amazingly matched with five non-relatives. He will tell you that of all his feats he is most proud of his marrow donation that saved the life of a 1-year-old boy.

I am pleased to recognize my friend Gary Bates and to give him some of the praise he has never asked, but certainly deserves. He has said he would take a bullet for me, but I think he would take one for anyone in need. Even at 67 he exercises daily so that he can be physically, not just mentally, ready to meet the call of anyone in distress. He continues to be an example to Nevadans and Americans that anyone can turn in their boxing gloves or brass knuckles for the work gloves of a citizen making our society a better place.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. LARRY D. SHINN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great educator who has impacted the lives of thousands of Kentuckians over the course of his career. My good friend, Dr. Larry D. Shinn, will retire in a little more than a month's time after serving 18 years as president of Berea College in Berea, KY, and I know I speak for many when I say I am very sorry to see him go.

Dr. Shinn has served as president since 1994 and is the eighth president of Berea College, a proud liberal-arts college which is dedicated to serving students of great promise and limited economic means. Its primary focus is on serving students from the Appalachian region. Berea College generously offers a full-tuition scholarship to each of its 1,500 students and requires all of them to work in positions on campus. Berea College is proud of its heritage as the first interracial and coeducational college in the South and proud of its focus on a Christian ethic of service and its historic mission to promote the cause of Christ.

Dr. Shinn is a magna cum laude graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College and a summa cum laude graduate of Drew University Theological School. He received his Ph.D. in history of religions from Princeton University. Before coming aboard as Berea's president, he taught at Oberlin College for 14 years and served as dean and vice president at Bucknell University for 10 years. He has authored several books and numerous articles and book reviews.

Then there is the remarkable progress Berea College has made under Dr. Shinn's leadership. During his presidency, Dr. Shinn has led the school's strategic-planning process and the creation of its strategic plan for Berea College to thrive in the 21st century. He has instituted a decisionmaking process that has enhanced virtually every area of academic life, from student retention and graduation rates to residential life, academic planning, development, and facilities renovation. He has led Berea's sustainability initiative, which is responsible for the creation of the Sustainability and Environmental Studies Program; the ecological renovations of several campus buildings, including the first LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, building in Kentucky; and the establishment of a residential "eco-village" for student families.

Dr. Shinn also led the "Extending Berea's Legacy" campaign that raised \$162 million for endowments to fund student scholarships, undergraduate research, a new technology program for students, a study abroad program, an entrepreneurship program, and other key initiatives.

I know that Larry and his wife Nancy are looking forward to having a little more time to themselves and to spend with their family, but their gain will certainly be Berea College's and Kentucky's loss. In his 18 years at the

helm, Dr. Shinn has proven himself to be one of the finest college presidents in Kentucky and the Nation. I salute him for his incredible legacy of service towards improving the lives of the thousands of Kentuckians and other students who have passed through Berea College's doors. He is a great Kentuckian whom I have been honored to represent and to work with over his nearly two decades as Berea College's president. He will be missed.

Mr. President, the Berea Spotlight, a publication of Berea College, published an article highlighting the many accomplishments of Dr. Larry Shinn around the time he announced his retirement. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Berea Spotlight, Apr. 4, 2011]

LARRY SHINN, BEREA COLLEGE PRESIDENT,  
PLANS RETIREMENT

(By Tim Jordan)

Berea College President Dr. Larry D. Shinn announced today that he will be retiring from the College, effective June 30, 2012. Berea's 8th president, Dr. Shinn has served in this capacity since 1994. In a letter to trustees, faculty, staff and students, Shinn stated that, with the College emerging strongly from the challenges of the Great Recession, it is a good time for Berea to begin the process of a leadership transition.

The combined efforts of Berea's faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, and other stakeholders have, over the span of the past 17 years, resulted in dramatic progress at the College. Enrollment of African-American students has increased from 6 percent to 18 percent, while service to the Appalachian region has been expanded. Retention and graduation rates have improved more than 30 percent while new program initiatives have enhanced educational quality. The College has successfully completed over \$140 million in sustainable building renovations, and in 2005 a \$150-million sesquicentennial campaign exceeded its goal. In response to the financial crisis of 2008-09, the College has embraced a bold and creative vision for carrying out its historic mission in a rapidly changing world. Dr. Shinn noted that Berea is a stronger and more resilient institution today that has greater capacity to address future opportunities and challenges.

President Shinn indicated that while he and his wife, Nancy, are looking forward to extended time with their children and grandchildren during their pending retirement, he cited a number of challenging initiatives that Berea must engage over the next 15 months, including the transition from academic departments to divisions, development of the College's new Center for Transformative Learning, and "deep green" science and residence hall projects.

Dr. David E. Shelton, chair of the Berea College Board of Trustees, commented: "President Shinn's unique blend of academic and leadership skills passionately applied to Berea's mission, in partnership with the entire College community, has produced outstanding results. Berea is well-positioned for the future, and we look forward to the unfolding of a number of new developments and opportunities during Larry's remaining tenure as president. Dr. Shinn's extraordinary abilities, personal commitment, and strong work ethic have set the example for the next generation of presidential leadership at